

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 31

Claims 1-24 and 31 have been allowed.

Claims 25-28 and 29-30

Claims 25-26 and 29 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda (2002/0191517). Claim 30 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Marino (5,910,936). Claims 27-28 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, but which depend from a rejected based claim. Claims 25 and 29 are independent claims, from which the remaining claims ultimately depend.

Applicant has amended claim 25 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 27, which directly depends from claim 25, and has cancelled claim 27. Claim 28 has been amended to depend from claim 25 instead of from now-cancelled claim 27. As such, Applicant submits that claim 25 is patentable, such that claims 26 and 28 that depend therefrom are patentable.

Applicant has further amended claim 29 to also recite the allowable subject matter of claim 27. As such, Applicant submits that claim 29 is patentable, such that claim 30 that depends therefrom is patentable.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



February 2, 2007  
Date

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